

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 355

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the
United States and Bulgaria.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BEREUTER, and Mrs. TAUSCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic
relations between the United States and Bulgaria.

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations
with the Republic of Bulgaria on September 19, 1903;

Whereas the United States acknowledges the courage of the
Bulgarian people in deciding to pursue a free democratic
and independent Bulgaria and their steadfast persever-
ance in building a society based on the rule of law, re-
spect for human rights, and a free market economy;

Whereas Bulgaria has promoted stability in the Balkans by
rendering support to Operation Allied Force and Oper-
ation Joint Guardian led by the North Atlantic Treaty
Organization (NATO), and by providing peacekeeping
troops to Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina

(SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to Kosovo Force (KFOR) in Kosovo;

Whereas Bulgaria was among the very first countries to denounce terrorism and pledge active support to the United States in the fight against terrorism following the events of September 11, 2001;

Whereas Bulgaria provided overflight and basing rights at the town of Bourgas for Operation Enduring Freedom, representing the first stationing of foreign forces in Bulgaria since World War II, and Bulgaria deployed a nuclear, biological, and chemical protection detachment to Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF);

Whereas Bulgaria has stood firmly by the United States in the cause of advancing freedom worldwide during its tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas Bulgaria agreed to each request of the United States and offered overflight and basing rights as well as transit of United States and coalition forces, and deployed a 500-man infantry battalion as part of a stabilization force in Iraq;

Whereas Bulgaria was recently invited to join NATO and has shown determination in enacting the continued reforms necessary to be a productive, contributing member of the Alliance;

Whereas Bulgaria strongly supports the strengthening of the trans-Atlantic link and considers it a basis for NATO unity and cooperation in countering new threats to global security; and

Whereas the Senate has recently given its consent with 96 votes to 0 for the ratification of the accession protocols of Bulgaria and six other aspirant countries from Central and Eastern Europe to NATO, thereby welcoming their contribution to common Euro-Atlantic security: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the Republic Of Bulgaria for de-
3 veloping increasingly friendly and meaningful rela-
4 tions with the United States over the past 100
5 years;

6 (2) recognizes the continued contributions of
7 Bulgaria toward bringing peace, stability, and pros-
8 perity to the region of South Eastern Europe, in-
9 cluding its contributions to regional security and
10 democratic stability;

11 (3) salutes the willing cooperation of Bulgaria
12 and its increasingly vital role as a valuable ally in
13 the war against international terrorism; and

14 (4) encourages opportunities for greater co-
15 operation between the United States and Bulgaria in
16 the political, military, economic, and cultural
17 spheres.

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